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UNCLAS DJIBOUTI 000283

SIPDIS

FOR CA/OCS, CA/P, AF/E
LONDON, PARIS FOR AFRICA WATCHERS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [CMGT](#) [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [KE](#) [ET](#) [DJ](#) [SO](#) [CIVS](#) [KFRP](#)

SUBJECT: SOMALIA THROUGH DJIBOUTI'S CONSULAR
WINDOW

REF: NAIROBI 740

1. SUMMARY. Embassy Djibouti agrees with the analysis in reftel. Djibouti is also responsible for providing consular services to Somalia. Post is unable to confirm identities or relationships to petitioners. The consular section concurs with Nairobi's stated concerns about possible ACS fraud. END SUMMARY.

VISA CONCERNS

2. While Djibouti does not handle Diversity Visas, Post does process Immigrant Visas, and Visas 92 and 93 (for family members of asylees and refugees) as well as a small number of Non-Immigrant Visa (NIV) applicants. The 92s and 93s have the highest level of fraud. Post is instructed that these cases are already adjudicated, and our only role in the process is to verify identity and relationship. But therein lies the concern. Post has almost no way to accurately establish identity. Relationships can sometimes be validated through DNA, but that has problems as well (see paragraph 4).

3. For a fee, any civil document can be obtained from the Somali Embassy in Djibouti. On 2 March, a Somali woman produced in a visa interview ten birth certificates, for her nine children and herself. They were all stamped as issued the prior day. While they are legitimately issued documents direct from the embassy, they are meaningless. Some applicants say they are asked to swear that the information is true before they can receive the documents, but most report that they don't even have to do that. The woman who offered the birth certificates didn't bring her children or any evidence of their existence with her to Djibouti when she obtained the documents.

DNA - SOMETIMES FRIEND, SOMETIMES FOE

4. Frequently, the only way to establish relationship is through DNA testing. With no civil documents of confidence, and photographs and letters extremely rare, DNA seems the only reliable evidence. When DNA does show a relationship though, it often does not meet the required 99.5% burden of proof. For example, someone will petition for a parent or child. The DNA establishes a close relationship, but per the DNA it is more likely to be a sibling.

5. Additionally, some applicants will offer DNA to establish a relationship, but the "children" they petition for are actually adult Embassy Djibouti frequently sees individuals who are well into their twenties (estimated by a panel physician) who claim to be as young as ten. Visas 92 and 93 are intended only to reunite spouses and minor unmarried children with their asylee or refugee anchor relative. Since the cases have already been adjudicated prior to being sent to post, the applicants will point to the DNA to establish identity and relationship, although they are not the ages of the individuals claimed in the petition.

ACS ISSUES

6. Djibouti does not have anything to add to Nairobi's thorough commentary on concerns about Somali-Americans, passport sharing, and child smuggling. Many similar stories have been seen here. Djibouti shares all the same concerns and concurs completely with Nairobi's assessment of the issues and the difficulties facing our posts in informed adjudication.

7. Djibouti echoes Nairobi's request for guidance from Consular Affairs and regional posts about best practices for processing Somali Immigrant and Somali-American ACS cases.

RAGSDALE